

OCT 14 1972

U of Edinburgh

Dear Martin:

re: Griffith Lecture-- The Discovery of DNA

For LOCK

May I have a reprint?

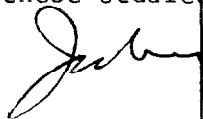
The attributions by Wilson and Elliott would seem to answer my question -- that Griffith was quite oblivious to historical precedents.

There is so little documentation about F.G.! Do you have transcripts of your 'personal communications' (refs. 22,23,26) for a historical record? If so, might I be privileged to see them.

Your paper does a beautiful job; I am sorry I did not have it to hand when I drafted the letter to Nature in response to Wyatt. I will be elaborating on the convergence of genetics and microbiology in a piece I mean to do on the discovery of recombination in *E. coli* K-12; and your account of Griffith's intellectual posture (which is perhaps almost a caricature of the medical bacteriologist) is invaluable.

Would we remember Griffith today if Avery had not been waiting, the chemist with the prepared mind, to pick it up? Or would the paper be another antiquity, like SanFelice, ~~transformed~~^{DNA} mediated transformations having been discovered instead via phage transfection. It seems fairly certain that Watson and Crick would have ended up putting the structure of DNA together in 1953 regardless of Avery. But I probably would not have tried to cross bacteria, without having crawled the route from trying to transform *Neurospora*; and bacteria might have been been overshadowed even more by

viruses in these studies than they were.



PROFESSOR JOSHUA LEDERBERG
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

P.S. You were kind, not to rub in Wendell Stanley's false start on TMV as pure protein (and correction by Pirie) to reinforce the atmosphere of p. 14.

JBY 63:1 1970